



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

In Reply Refer to:
A96

May 12, 2000

To: Tom Lonnie, Team Leader, Bureau of Land Management

From: Director, National Park Service

Subject: Cerro Grande Fire Investigation

In accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's direction, the National Interagency Fire Center has formed a Fire Investigative Team. This letter constitutes the delegation of authority for the Fire Investigative Team. This investigative team will follow NPS procedures as described in Chapter 13, Evaluation and Review, Reference Manual -18.

The purpose is to investigate the circumstances associated with the planning and implementation of the Cerro Grande Prescribed Fire in Bandelier National Monument and determine if overall NPS guidance and procedures were followed. The Investigative Team will examine events and circumstances during the time period beginning with the planning and implementation of the prescribed fire to the transition to the Type I Interagency Incident Management Team.

Specific objectives for this investigation include:

- ☐ If the Prescribed Fire Plan was adequate given complexity, objectives, and environmental conditions, and if it complied with NPS guidance set forth in Director's Orders #18 and Reference Manual -18,
- ☐ If the prescription, actions, and procedures set forth in the Prescribed Fire Plan were followed,
- ☐ If prescribed fire training and experience of personnel involved were commensurate with agency qualification standards, and
- ☐ Recommendations for immediate and long-term actions to prevent similar future occurrences and improve program performance.

Individuals who have already been assigned to gather information vital to the investigation will join the Investigative Team. These individuals are Tim Sexton and Ken Castro.

The Investigative Team will complete work by May 18, 2000. The findings of the Investigative Team will be reported to an Independent Review Board who will be appointed by the Secretary. This Board will contain federal and non-federal members.

This delegation shall go into effect at 1500 hours (MST) on May 12, 2000.

FOR Robert Stanton

1700 (EST) 05/12/00
UNTIL MR STANTON SIGNS
THIS OR A REVISED VERSION
IN SANTA FE